

REMARKS

The application has been amended in claims 1, 7, 10 and claims dependent thereon to require that the electronic game be an adventure game. Support for this amendment is found on page 12, line 5 et seq. of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that none of the art cited by the Examiner relates to adventure games as that term is known and used in the art and defined in the specification. It is therefore submitted that any combination of the video maze game, golf simulator, and pin ball or other ball game cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed, and any combination of the cited art with adventure game art would be an improper hindsight combination. Prompt allowance of these claims is therefore earnestly requested.

With respect to independent claims 13, 18, and 20, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has effectively read out of the claims the words "requiring". Clearly, none of the art, taken individually or together, include the details required by claims 13, 18 and 20. Indeed, the applicants respectfully request that if the Examiner maintains her rejection, that she specify how she is reading the claims, and where specifically she finds such limitations in the prior art. For example, where does the Examiner find the limitation of claim 20 that neither player can complete the game without the other player completing the game?

In light of the above, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner believes that the claims are not all in condition for allowance, she is requested to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss what possible amendments she might deem necessary to place the case in condition for allowance, at it is clear that the disclosed invention is considerably different than any of the cited art taken alone or together.

In accord with recent Patent Office practice, enclosed herewith are marked copies of the amended claims.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Gordon
Reg. #29,996
Attorney for Applicant(s)

65 Woods End Road
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 329-1160

April 4, 2001

1. (amended) A multiplayer electronic adventure game for use with a processing apparatus having a graphical display and input means for receiving input from at least two players simultaneously, said adventure game comprising:

a) player location means for associating a game location with each player such that as each player moves through said adventure game, each player's game location is updated; and

b) split screen means for dividing the graphical display into separate portions of each player, said split screen means being responsive to said player location means such that when two players' game locations are within a preset range, the separate portions of the graphical display for the two players are merged into a single portion of the graphical display, and when the two players' game locations are outside the preset range, the graphical display for the two players is split into separate portions.

7. (amended) An electronic adventure game for use with a processing apparatus having a graphical display and input means for receiving input from two players simultaneously, said adventure game comprising:

a) split screen means for dividing the graphical display into separate portions for each player and for merging the separate portions into a single graphical display shared by both players; and

b) game logic which requires each player to act individually and jointly with the other player at different points in said adventure game, wherein

said split screen means is responsive to said game logic such that the graphical screen is split into separate portions when the players are acting individually and the separate portions are merged into a single portion when the players are acting jointly.

10. (amended) An electronic adventure game for use with a processing apparatus having a graphical display and input means for receiving input from two players simultaneously, said adventure game comprising:

a) character generator means for generating a separate character or pointer for each player;

b) split screen means for dividing the graphical display into separate portions for each player and for merging the separate portions into a single graphical display shared by both players; and

c) game logic which provides opportunities for each player to act individually and jointly with the other player at different points in said adventure game, wherein

said split screen means is responsive to said game logic such that the graphical screen is split into separate portions when the players are acting individually and the separate portions are merged into a single portion when the players are acting jointly, said separate characters or pointers being separately controllable when the players are acting jointly and when the players are acting individually.



CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail" in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D.C. 20231,

on April 5, 2001 under Express Mail No. EL 604 864 604

By: David P. Gordon
David P. Gordon

RECEIVED
APR 13 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700